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Van Woerkom's Senate Bill 1 Considered by Technology and Energy Committee

LANSING – The Senate Technology and Energy Committee today considered legislation sponsored by Senator Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Muskegon, to require telephone companies to have their End User Common Line (EUCL) charge approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

“If passed into law, Senate Bill 1 would require telecommunications companies to justify the EUCL charge to the citizens of West Michigan,” Van Woerkom said.

Senate Bill 1 would create a process to allow telephone companies to justify the End User Common Line (EUCL) charge billed to consumers through a hearing at the Public Service Commission. The Commission would then have the right to approve or deny the charge, ensuring that consumers are paying a reasonable charge.

All phone lines in Michigan, residential and business, are currently subject to a EUCL charge.

“Michigan consumers are entitled to know what they are paying for on their telephone bills,” Van Woerkom said. “My goal is to open up the process to ensure there are no hidden costs passed on to consumers. I appreciate the prompt action and commitment of the Senate Technology and Energy Committee to consider Senate Bill 1.”

The Senate Technology and Energy Committee has scheduled the hearing on Senate Bill 1 to continue on Wednesday, January 29.

Note: An audio recording of Senator Van Woerkom discussing Senate Bill 1 is available on the Michigan Senate Hotline at (517) 373-4000.